

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Presently amended) A method of treating or reducing the risk of acquiring vaginal dryness, said method comprising increasing levels of a sex steroid precursor selected from the group consisting of dehydroepiandrosterone, dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate, androst-5-ene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol and 4-androsten-3,17-dione in a patient in need of said treatment or ~~said reduction at~~ higher risk of acquiring vaginal dryness than the general female population, and further comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a selective estrogen receptor modulator as part of a combination therapy.

Claims 2-34 (Canceled)